

14 October 1971

Dear Mrs. Trammell,

Now you will see why I could never make it as a typist. Thank you for your letter of October 7, received today. Don't be embarrassed. You made excellent progress in our fight with the computer. It's good to know that everything is normal at home and the NIH computer still doesn't function well. Enclosed is my check for \$200 to the Credit Union. Good luck to you and Mrs. Argent and Mrs. Volpe in straightening the whole mess out. Of course if you can find a way for me not to have to pay for the car at all, that would be fine too.

Also enclosed is the signed card for the CFC. Tell Mr. L. that I would like to continue as last year and please to fill out the card in appropriate fashion for me. Thanks.

I was happy to get the assorted items of news from NIH and I hope that you will share the letter with the rest of the section. Bill Jakoby's Scientific Accomplishment report was good reading. Our section seems to have a leaning toward ill-behaved enzymes, but it is nice to know that our Section Chief manages to keep his sense of humor about the whole problem.

I was also happy to have the NIAMD Assembly of Scientists Newsletter. It's good to be reminded occasionally that the world didn't go away. I suppose that similar problems exist at the Weizman, but as a visitor I am happily oblivious to all of them. The only problems I have are those I brought with me, namely, the fighting and squabbling among my children. I suppose that is the best sign that all the moving, new language and so forth has not in any serious way altered their personalities. They still fight with one another all the time.

The six day work week is quite a change for all of us. School too is six days. Coupled with the fact that one has to shop more often because of limited freezer and refrigerator space, and that several shops must be visited, my schedule is pretty tight.

Our biggest problem is keeping enough milk in the house...it comes in half-liter plastic bags, that is, half a quart. At the rate my children drink milk it seems we can never get enough. On the other hand, the price is about 0.64 of a pound for a quart and at 4.20 pounds to the dollar that is pretty cheap. Bread too is very cheap (0.32 pounds per 2 pound loaf). On the other hand meat is even more expensive than at home.

Tell Carol that it won't be long before she hears from me. I have been spending quite a bit of time going over a review written by Marianne Grunberg-Manago, which I will send to Carol shortly....it is also for Claude and Janice to read. They will not be happy. Neither am I.

Meanwhile I am learning all sorts of things about

tissue culture, viruses, DNA, equilibrium centrifugation, hybridization and so forth. The lab is an active place, with, besides Winocour, two excellent graduate students, and a post-doctoral fellow who just finished his degree with Charles Richardson at Harvard and knows Robb Moses well. In addition to this group, there are a larger number of graduate students and fellows in Leo Sach's group in the same department. People are constantly disappearing for a month or more to do their army service, and it is interesting to see how much in their stride they all take this. Until the age of 54, after three complete years from 17 to 20, all men can and are called up for a month's duty. Generally they go right off to the borders. The roads are always full of soldiers, male and female, hitchhiking somewhere and it is very bad manners indeed not to take as many as your car will hold. Those who are in active ~~aff~~ defense groups carry their rifles along. And there is constant noise all day from the planes, mainly military. In spite of all this, people's every day lives are quite normal and matter-of-fact.

I was informed the other day of Gil's impending arrival. And coming out of the lab yesterday I bumped into Len Kohn. He was fine, as is all his family and next week I hope to have a real visit with them.

Very best to all, and maybe someone will call Bob Martin and compliment him on the Newsletter and tell him that at the Weizmann one must also have a sticker on the front windshield even to get into the gate. Furthermore, so he'll know that things could be worse, tell him there is a soldier with a rifle stationed at the gate to check on the stickers.

yours  
Maya